

Torrance Herald

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When Is Life Worth Living?

Tolstoi's Excellent Advice

LIFE is always worth living to those who enjoy reading the great book Life is, continually writing. In Tolstoi's "War and Peace" the hero, Peter, is supposed to be the richest man in the Russian empire. During the French Revolution he is taken prisoner and dragged through much of the retreat. Cold, vermin, hunger and every form of misery assail him, the result being a revelation to him of the real scale of life's values.

William James observes that the occasion and the experience are nothing. It all depends on the capacity of the soul to be grasped, to have its life currents absorbed by what is given.

The reason most of us do not enjoy life equally well, it seemed to James, is that most of us have got far, far away from nature.

"We are strained to seek the choice, the rare, the exquisite, and to overlook the common. We are stuffed with abstract conceptions and glib with verbalities and verbiages; and in the culture of these higher functions the peculiar sources of joy connected with our simpler functions often dry up, and we grow stone-blind and insensible to life's more elementary and general goods and joys."

The remedy under such conditions, as James sees it, is to descend to a more primitive level. To be imprisoned or shipwrecked or forced into an army would permanently show the good of life to many an over-educated pessimist, he observes.

"Living in the open air and on the ground, the lopsided beam of the balance slowly rises to the level line; and the over-sensibility and insensibilities even themselves out. The good of all the artificial schemes and felves fades and pales; and that of seeing, smelling, tasting, sleeping, and daring and doing with one's body, grows and grows."

"The savages and children of nature, to whom we deem ourselves much superior, certainly are alive where we are often dead, along these lines; and could they write as glibly as we do, they would read us impressive lectures on our impatience for improvement and on our blindness of the static goods of life."

"Ah, my brother," said an Indian chieftain to his white guest, "thou wilt never know the happiness of both thinking of nothing and doing nothing. This, next to sleep, is the most enchanting of all things."

Capital Punishment Fails

So Says Sing Sing Warden

WARDEN LEWIS E. LAWES of Sing Sing prison, in a recent address, declared that in six years only 3 per cent of the 1800 homicides in New York city had resulted in death sentences, and that 50 per cent more individuals have been killed by the police than by the Sing Sing electric chair during that period.

"We are passing through a period of disregard for law on all sides and by all classes," the warden said. "We cannot view some forms of lawlessness with complacency without letting down in the legal machinery all along the line."

"One factor peculiar to us is the difficulty of assimilating many foreign elements into our population, and closely related to this is the problem of education. Sixty-five per cent of the inmates received in Sing Sing during the fiscal year just ended were below the eighth grade of grammar school in training. Nor is the illiteracy due to the youthfulness of the inmate. The average age of the inmate for the past two fiscal years has been higher than the average for any two years within a decade. For the year just ended the average age of an inmate was 29 years 11 months."

"Our methods of criminal procedure are defective. We have delays and faulty bail methods, and then there is the signal failure of capital punishment."

"The latter is perhaps the most striking example of the many where the law holds a threat so severe it is seldom carried out. The very elements that make it unenforceable are human ones that can't be overcome. That is why this form of punishment can never be any better."

"In spite of somewhat pessimistic indications, I wish to sound a note of optimism. I don't believe crime in general is as rampant as it is popularly supposed to be. Prison commitments show no tendency toward an increase in proportion to the population. Juvenile delinquency is certainly decreasing."

Are You Honestly Yourself?

Don't Cultivate Affectation

By CLARK KINNARD

BE yourself! That is good advice, from the vernacular. There is a maxim attributed to Napoleon everyone should take to heart: "Everything that is unnatural is imperfect." It is a rule of universal application, whether in the physical or in the moral sphere. Schopenhauer protested against any and every form of affectation.

"It always arouses contempt; in the first place, because it argues deception, and the deception is cowardly, for it is based on fear; and, secondly, it argues self-condemnation, because it means that a man is trying to appear what he is not, and therefore something which he thinks better than he actually is."

"Whether it is courage, or learning, or intellect, or wit, or success with women, or riches, or social position, or whatever else it may be that a man boasts of, you may conclude by his boasting about it that that is precisely the direction in which he is rather weak; for if a man possesses any faculty to the full, it will not occur to him to make a great show of affecting it; he is quite content to know that he has it."

"That is the application of the Spanish proverb, 'A clattering hoof is a nail gone.'"

"To be sure," Schopenhauer allows, "no man ought to let the reins go quite loose, and show himself just as he is; for there are many evil and bestial sides to our nature which require the negative attitude of dissimulation; but that does not justify a positive feigning of qualities which are not there."

"It should also be remembered that affectation is recognized at once, even before it is clear that it is being affected."

"And, finally, affectation cannot last very long, and one day the mask will fall off."

No one can be perverse long in a fictitious character; for nature will soon reassert itself, says Seneca.

Turns Light on Russ Court

Ex-Noble Now in America

CONSIDERABLE interest has been aroused in the career of Gen. Michael S. Kommissarov, who writes with such apparent knowledge of the intrigues of the Russian court under Czar Nicholas II. That he is in a position to discuss intimately the subjects he writes about is brought out in the memoirs of a number of Russian statesmen, who depict him as both an energetic secret service official and a sinister figure.

Kommissarov was born in Moscow, educated in a military academy, and commissioned in the artillery. He performed valuable service in the Russian-Japanese war by obtaining secret military documents, the czar informed Prime Minister Witte, as the latter records in his memoirs. Next he was attached to the personal staff of Plehve, minister of interior, and in 1906 he was in charge of a secret section of the police department at Petrograd which was supposed to watch the activities of various revolutionary and terrorist organizations. About this time, Count Witte writes, it was reported to him that "proclamations inciting to anti-Jewish pogroms" were being distributed from Kommissarov's office. Reference to Kommissarov's alleged part in stirring up pogroms is also made in the memoirs of Lopukin, one time head of the political secret service department of the ministry of interior.

From 1907 to 1910 Kommissarov was head of the "Okhranka"—the Russian abbreviation for department for the safeguarding of public security and order—in Petrograd, and during the next four years in similar capacities in the Ural and Volga regions. Then he was summoned to Petrograd once more for confidential work under the ministry of interior. Among his duties was the investigation of Rasputin, as is brought out in the recently published reminiscences of S. P. Bieletsky, under-secretary of the interior during the ministry of Khvostov.

In 1916 Kommissarov became military commander of the towns of Rostov and Nakhitchevan, and four months later returned to confidential duty with the ministry of interior, which post he held until the revolution. Feb. 27, 1917, or the day before the main revolutionary outbreak, Kommissarov and Sheglovitov, presiding officer of the imperial council, were arrested. They were the first two persons in Russia arrested by the revolutionists.

Upon his release from prison Kommissarov was next heard of in the Balkans. He came to this country last March, and is now engaged in writing his memoirs.

Wild Geese—By F. Peterson

How oft against the sunset sky or moon I watched that moving zigzag of spread wings In unforgotten Autumns gone too soon, In unforgotten Springs! Creatures of desolation, far they fly Above all lands bound by the curling foam; In misty fens, wild moors and trackless sky These wild things have their home. They know the tundra of Siberian coasts, And tropic marshes of the Indian seas; They know the clouds and night and starry hosts From Crux to Pleiades. Dark-flying rune against the western glow— It tells the sweep and loneliness of things, Symbol of Autumns vanished long ago, Symbol of coming Springs!

SHE WAS ENTITLED TO A CHANGE

The wife of a rich man, who lacks the business acumen which made her husband wealthy, directed her secretary to balance her bank book and go through the household books.

"Very extraordinary," the secretary reported. "I find that for the last year you have used an average of four dozen cakes of soap a day at home."

The rich woman spoke severely to her servants. She said that she realized they would always graft, but their poverty of imagination appalled her.

"When you want a little easy money," she said, "charge other things on the bill. Paint, brass polish, doorknobs—anything but soap. I'm tired of soap."

Glass-Lined Trucks Open East's Markets to Milk Producers



Milk may now be shipped from the mid-west by motor truck to supply the ever-growing demands of the eastern markets. This was demonstrated to farmers and dairymen when a glass-lined tank of milk, mounted on a motor truck, was sent from Pittsburgh to Milwaukee and arrived in excellent condition. The truck is shown with Milwaukee officials who inspected it on arrival.

WIFE SAVERS

BY MRS. MARY MORTON

Worn woolen blankets make fine filling for comforts for the baby's bed. Cut away the worn parts and use three or four thicknesses of wool covered with pretty materials. Tie corners carefully and you will find that they will wash easily and be warmer for their weight than with a cotton filling.

Cornmeal or Wheat Cakes.—One cup white flour, one cup cornmeal, buckwheat or whole wheat, two teaspoons baking powder, one teaspoon salt, one-half teaspoon soda, one and one-half cups sour milk, one or two eggs. One cup bread crumbs squeezed dry from cold water may be used in place of cornmeal or whole wheat flour if wished. Serve with syrup.

When spectacles are greasy and cloudy and the effect is not removed by a dry cloth or wafers a few drops of alcohol will quickly clean and brighten the glass.

Fried Squash.—Two young crook-neck squash, one-half cup milk, one tablespoon salt, one egg, two tablespoons flour, four tablespoons bacon fat. Boil the squash about fifteen minutes—until a fork pierces easily to the center. Drain, and if the skin is too old to be eaten hold the squash with a fork in the left hand and remove the skin with a paring knife. Cut in one-half-inch slices and dip in the batter made by mixing the flour, salt, egg and milk together in the order mentioned. Brown on both sides in the hot bacon fat and serve immediately.

Did you ever try keeping your buttons in a bottle? One housewife writes that she likes a bottle best of all to keep her buttons in. Glass vials with either screw tops or corks are best. You often get them from the drug store. You can see through the glass just what size button is there. They can also be used for snap fasteners and hooks and eyes.

Molasses Cake.—One cup molasses, one cup melted fat, two tablespoons sugar, one egg, two cups flour. Mix well and add one cup boiling water to which has been added the following: One teaspoon soda, one teaspoon salt, one teaspoon cinnamon, one-half teaspoon ginger, one-quarter teaspoon nutmeg. Bake in a moderate oven about twenty-five minutes. Serve while fresh, using two forks for cutting, as in sponge cake. Or gem pans may be used.

A few work-saver suggestions in combining foods: Use two measuring cups, one for liquid and one for dry measure.

Always beat egg whites first to avoid washing the egg beater between operations. A small egg beater that fits into a cup is splendid for small amounts of cream, one egg, etc. Molasses will not stick to cup if fat or water is measured in it first.

Tuna Fish Loaf.—One can tuna fish, one egg, cracker crumbs, celery, milk. Place the tuna fish in a dish and add the egg and cracker crumbs and then the celery, which has been cut in small pieces. Mix them all together. Put into a buttered baking dish and pour over enough milk to cover. Bake in a moderate oven until brown.

Long-handled dust pan saves stooping. A hinged shelf is very useful in a small kitchen for extra space.

Spice Cake.—One cup brown sugar, one egg, two tablespoons butter, one teaspoon soda in three-quarters cup sour milk, one-half teaspoon each of cloves, nutmeg and cinnamon, two cups flour, raisins, currants and nuts if desired. Bake in gem pans.

For pear honey take three cups of pears peeled and chopped fine, cook until tender, add five cups of sugar, and a cook until the mixture is a honey-like consistency. The rule of three cups of fruit to five cups of sugar may be used for peach, pear and apple honey.

Mango Pickles (Stuffed Green Peppers).—One head cabbage, two tablespoons sugar, two tablespoons white mustard seed, one tablespoon celery salt, one tablespoon salt four onions, one teaspoon ground cinnamon, one-half teaspoon ground cloves, one-half teaspoon ground pepper, eight large green peppers, two large red peppers, two tablespoons grated horseradish. Wash and wipe dry the red and green peppers, cut the latter in halves lengthwise, remove seeds and keep the two halves of each pepper together. Chop fine the red pepper, onions and cabbage; add salt, sugar and spices; mix thoroughly. Fill the green peppers with mixture; fit the two halves together and tie securely with a clean white cord. Place the stuffed peppers in a crock or glass jars and cover with cider vinegar to which has been added three or four hot Italian red peppers and one clove of garlic. Cover jars and keep in a cool place.

When blankets become too sew a piece of strong muslin or outing flannel across the fold, it is a double blanket; or, if single, across the end.

Grape Conserve.—Two quarts grapes, two oranges, two and one-half pounds sugar, one pound seedless raisins, one pound English walnuts. Wash grapes; remove stems and separate pulp and skins. Place half the skins in a small amount of water and cook five minutes. Throw away the remainder of the skins, as the conserve is too strong if all are used. Cook pulp slowly until it is soft. Put through colander of coarse sieve. Add pulp and rind of oranges, sugar, raisins and grape skins. Boil the mixture five minutes to 216 degrees. Add chopped nuts; turn into sterilized glasses and seal.

Tiles such as are used in vestibules and porch floors are cleaned better by using clear water without any strong alkalis, because often the alkali causes them to turn white. Outside tiles will give a good color if wiped over with a solution of fastened sawdust, in place of water; cleans them well.

Steamed Lamb Chops.—Take two lamb chops, one tablespoon butter, and seasoning. Butter a plate, season chops. Place them on the plate and put buttered paper on top and cover with another plate or lid. Put this dish on top of sauce pan of boiling water and keep water boiling underneath. Cook for forty minutes. Serve with liquid that comes from top. By this method nothing is lost and they are very digestible.

If when ironing scrim or marquisette curtains you find you have difficulty getting the sides even, try this method: Draw a straight line on each side of the ironing sheet, measuring the distance between the two exactly the width of the curtain. In ironing, pull the curtain until it is even with the lines. Folding the curtains in half lengthwise before ironing is also a help, and be sure to have them quite damp before ironing.

Cabbage and Carrot Salad.—Cut cabbage fine, season well. Make dressing from sour cream, vinegar and sugar. Then grate raw carrots over the top. The carrots are very nutritious and raw and add a decorative touch.

BET HE WAS CURED! "Hallo, Cauliflower!" said the factious young man to a farmer who was driving along a country road. "Give a fellow a lift to Lumbtown?" without waiting for a reply he jumped into the cart. "I might as well ride with you as walk." After two or three miles had been covered the young man paused for a moment in his chatter. "It's farther to Lumbtown than I supposed," he remarked. "It's a good distance," said the farmer. Another 20 minutes passed, and then the young man inquired: "About how far is it to Lumbtown?" "Well," replied the farmer, "keep in straight on the way we're going now, I should say 'twould be a matter of several thousand miles, but if you was to get out of my cart and walk it back, it isn't very much above eight miles."

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